

Executive Registry

THE DIRECTOR OF
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE


76-2548

National Intelligence Officers

15 June 1976

Mr. Bush -

Attached is the order of discussion for
this afternoon's meeting on Backfire.


Assistant National Intelligence Officer
for Strategic Programs

Attachment
As Stated

25X1A

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DCI/NIO Meeting
15 June 1976

BACKFIRE

Order of Discussion

History of technical analyses
of Backfire

Evan Hineman, D/OWI

Backfire as a SALT issue



SALT Support

25X1A

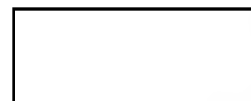
Status report on CIA technical
analysis of Backfire



OWI/DSD
OWI/DSD

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The mission of Backfire - inter-
continental or peripheral



Ch/OSR/SFD
OSR/SFA

25X1A

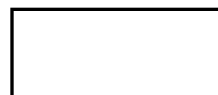
Monitoring of Backfire limitations



SALT Support

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Policy implications of the CIA
analysis



SALT Support

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X Ref.

76-2548

15 June 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Knoche

SUBJECT : 15 June NIO Meeting; The Backfire Problems

1. To summarize the meeting very briefly, our SALT negotiators, relying on previous CIA/military estimates, have heretofore always insisted that the Backfire bomber be counted as a strategic weapon, while the Soviets have countered that it is only a medium bomber. The latest OWI study, however, estimates the Backfire's characteristics as pretty much in line with Soviet claims. Our new figures, and the supporting data, are being supplied to the Air Force for their comments/concurrence on an urgent basis, but their review will have to take about two months.

2. It was recommended to Mr. Bush that he advise the Verification Panel and Secretary Kissinger of our conclusions and the fact that the military would review them. Bush concurred. Someone warned that we were bound to face criticism in this matter: a) by arriving at the new estimate late in the day, we could incur HAK's wrath that we had delayed a SALT II agreement; b) by pushing for a reduced estimate of its capabilities, we could be accused of being "soft" on Backfire. Bush seemed undismayed, and complimented the analysts concerned.

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(15Jun76)

Distribution:

Orig - Mr. Knoche

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